

# Focused Resources to Reach Your Nation

Campus leaders around the world think about critical questions like “How will we reach our nation?” and “How will we see movements in all the universities of our nation?” Often the answers to these questions are overwhelming and seemingly impossible. On the one hand we want to see movements in every university, on the other hand in many nations we would just like to see one true movement somewhere in any university.

In other words, ***we feel the urgency to grow where we are and to go where the gospel has not been.*** The question is how do we accomplish this? These two can often feel in competition with each other. How can we embrace more scope (go where the gospel is not) even while we focus so that movements grow where we are?

The best manual for ministry and strategy is also one of the oldest: the book of Acts. One thing you notice very early on is that while some leaders stayed focused in Jerusalem, building deep into the life of the church, others were thrust out in ever expanding circles as the gospel spread from Judea, Samaria, and beyond.

Later in Acts 11 the Church in Antioch also faced a very similar challenge. God had worked mightily and broken out of their historic target audience (the Jews) as a few Spirit filled leaders proclaimed Christ to Greeks. The result was an outpouring of God’s Spirit. When Barnabus arrived on the scene he saw immediately that the church in Antioch needed to ***grow where it was, and it needed to grow deep.*** So after encouraging the brethren he went to find reinforcements and returned with Saul of Tarsus. These two men, together with other leaders among who were prophets and teachers, saw the church grow and become established. By Acts 13 there seems to be a ***team of leaders*** serving the church at large, fasting, and praying. Then the Holy Spirit spoke, “set apart for Me Paul and Barnabus for the work that I have prepared for them.”

It is important to note that even though there was still much work to be done for the church in Antioch to continue to grow and be established that ***God was working and responding to their prayers through the focused ministry of a few to “go where the gospel was not.”*** By setting aside a few key leaders to focus on a broader scope, both values would be held in healthy tension.

***The Holy Spirit’s answer was focus.*** Some of the leaders were to stay in Antioch and focus on the church there. A few other leaders, Paul and Barnabus, were being set aside for seeing movements (churches) planted in many cities.

Within the student-led MCC, God seems to be working in nations around the world creating focus through three primary strategies:

- ***Staff teams*** focusing on a defined target area to launch movements in ***strategic priority universities.***
- ***Teams or individuals*** that are focusing on ***catalytic strategies*** to launch movements in many universities across a broad scope. (Catalytic)
- ***Virtual:*** In both of the above, staff, students, and volunteers ***integrating and using virtual*** tools and strategies to launch new movements.

As you think about your nation, ask the question: “What’s it going to take?” ***It could be that God is not calling us to do more, but rather to prayerfully focus our resources in faith.*** What would it look like to have even a few of your staff focused in strategic universities, while having others like Paul and Barnabus focused on a much broader scope?

How might God be leading you and your leadership to consider this need and opportunity? How could you apply the principle of focus in your context to see even a few staff working full-time toward the goal of launching multiple movements across the scope of your city, region, or nation?

In spiritual leadership, strategy is never pursued apart from relationship, relationship with God and what He has promised to do in the world and specifically in relation to your nation, region, or city. There isn’t a formula that will guide us, rather each leader needs to hear from the Lord and discover His timing and means for strategically focusing resources.

It will not look the same in every nation. There is no one strategy or structure that will work everywhere. To answer the “what’s it going to take” question we need to understand God and His promises, and we also need to understand our nation and the unique challenges and opportunities that exist there and then follow His lead.

I remember well my early years living in a former Eastern Block country. It was amazing to see how dirty and neglected the buildings were, even the stairwell was often black and dirty. However once you stepped into someone’s apartment, it was like going from a black and white movie to full Technicolor! The apartments were usually clean, decorated, and inviting. Why such a contrast? The stairwell and the outside of the building belonged to everyone, while the inside of individual apartments was ***owned*** by families. ***What belonged to everyone really belonged to no one.***

The same is true of our nations and the unreached universities of the world. Often we only own the universities where we have teams. We all want to see everyone reached, but all too often everyone’s job ends up being no-one’s job. *Until someone or a small team is set aside and given responsibility for all the universities of a nation now, they remain unreached.*

Under the Holy Spirit’s leadership, where this principle is being applied and followed, God is honoring His promises. Even in Indonesia, where the vast majority are Muslim, one couple, after being set aside for the unreached universities of their region, have seen ministries start in 30 different universities.

In your nation, who will own the responsibility for the unreached universities? As we think about reaching the scope, it is critical that we learn the principle of focus so that together we can grow where we are and go where the gospel is not.